

A POSTCARD COLLECTION
OF BOOKHAM

By

Barry Feltham

Album 3
(Pages 21 - 40)

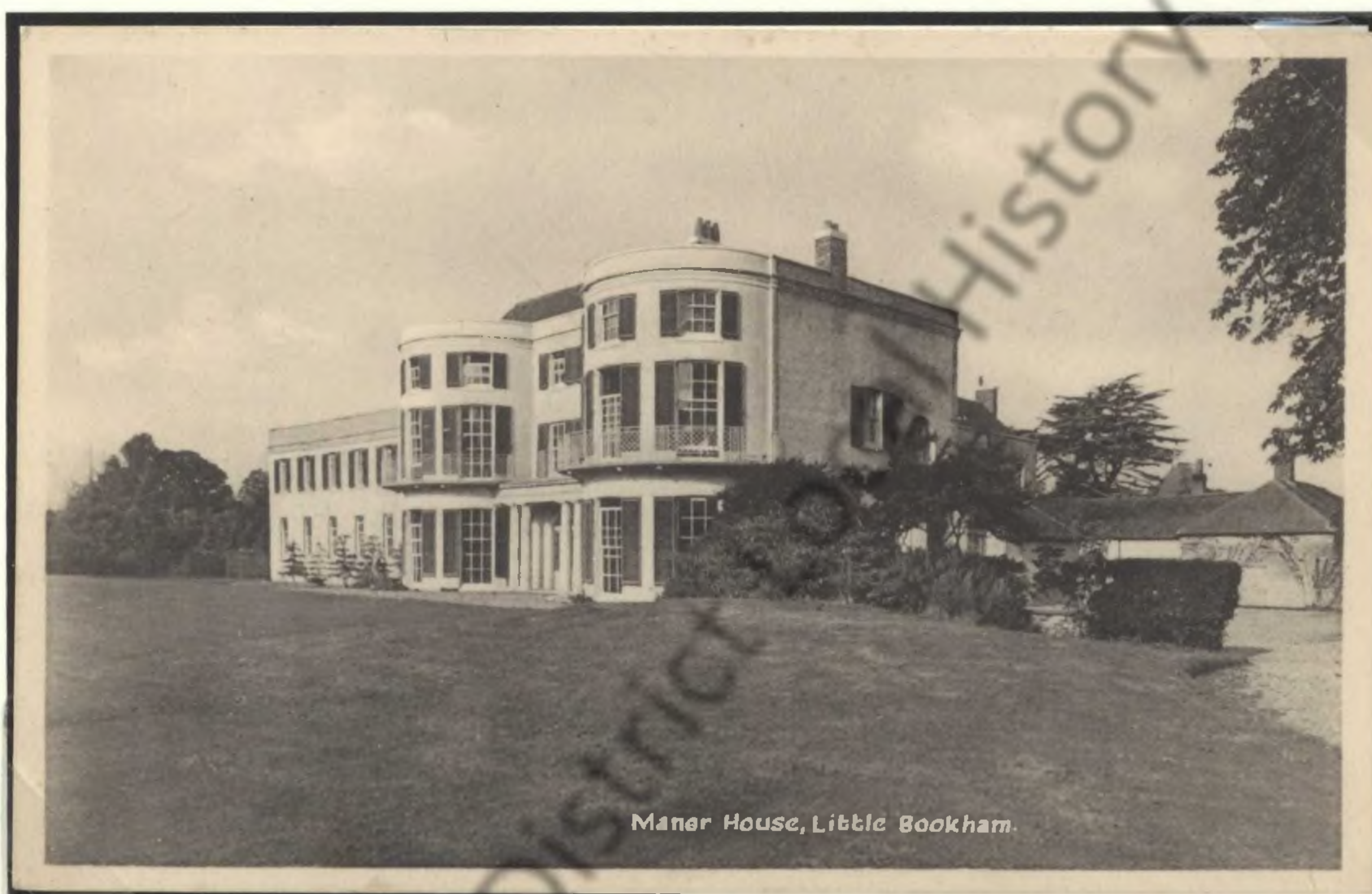
The Bookhams

Manor House Lane - Manor House

Henrietta had three sons, her second son; George Pollen Boileau became Rector of Little Bookham and on succeeding to the Lordship of the Manor, assumed by licence the surname of Pollen. He married Lady Helen Hall, producing four children, of which the eldest, John Douglas Boileau Pollen became Lord of the Manor but in 1848 was found by inquisition to be of unsound mind. He died in 1906.

Henrietta's third son, Charles Lestock Pollen had one child only, Mary Elizabeth, who married Henry Davis Willock. They had four children, the eldest Henry Court Willock became Lord of the Manor in 1906 and on so doing also adopted the name 'Pollen.' Henry Court Willock Pollen remained Lord of the Manor until his death in 1934. His daughter, Violet Mary Robinson during WWI became the village postman in November 1915 as most of the postmen had joined up. She died in 1927, and the Willock Pollen's had the electric lighting installed in the Parish Church in her memory.

Finally the line came to an end. H C Willock Pollen's Executors sold the Lordship of the Manor House and then, with only just over 17 acres of land, it came into the possession of the late Lord of the Manor, Miss H E Green, who was headmistress of the Manor House School.



A Lofthouse, Crosby & Co postcard above and an unknown postcard below with a view of Manor House Lane, called Manor lane in this card. The view has been taken from where the Lodge is at Manor House School and opposite Manor House Farm.



The Bookhams

Manor House Lane - Manor House

The honour and the obligation of the Lord of the Manor, and the organisation by the Steward, were considerable. The Rev G P Boileau Pollen, Lord of the Manor until 1847 had strong views on the conduct of his tenants. In 1835 he provided a field, Dod's Close, partly in Little Bookham and partly in Effingham, for the use of the labourers of Little Bookham as allotments, conditional, as set out in the lettering agreement, that 'All occupants will be expected to attend regularly (as far as lies in their power) at Devine Service with their families in a decent and orderly manner as long as they are the power' and 'any Occupier who may be convicted of poaching, thieving, drunkenness or any other offence with be deprived at once of his garden without any allowance whatsoever.' The rent was 12 shillings per annum, for a quarter acre or six days labour in each year between 1st April and 1st August would be received in lieu. The rent was payable at the Castle Inn (now Windsor Castle) at the beginning of October 'when and where refreshments will be provided for them.'

The last Lord of the Manor of the Pollen family, Henry Court Willock Pollen, lived at various times at The Old Rectory, the Manor Farm and the Manor House. He let Preston House for 21 years from September 1919 to Mrs Mary Hansard. It was not until his death in 1934 that the Estate was broken up and the land retained with the house ceased to bear any relationship to the boundaries of the Manor of Little Bookham.

In 1927 a fire almost gutted the Manor House but fortunately the building was saved and restored. After Willock Pollen's death in 1934 the estate was broken up; Miss H E Green who ran a school in Mickleham acquired the Manor House and the Lordship in 1936 at auction. The all girls' school moved into the Manor House in 1937 and was known as Manor House School.



The postcard is dated 1937 as Manor House School. The picture is of Manor House after the fire in 1927



The Bookhams

Manor House Lane - Manor House

The school began as two small classes run by Miss Green and Miss Wheeler in Sidmouth, Devon in 1920. They joined forces and the school named "The Beehive" was born. By 1929 the ladies decided to move to Surrey as they wished to branch out into boarding and it was felt that Devon was too far for London families to travel. For seven years they rented Mickleham Hall in Dorking before moving into Manor House, which has been settled here ever since.

On her retirement, Miss Green moved to a timbered house in the school grounds, until she died in the early 1960s.

In the grounds there is a barn from Preston House garden, which had been used for storing fruit and vegetables. The barn was damaged by gales in October 1987 and in 1990. Urgent action was needed to save it and in October 1990 the barn was dismantled and transferred to the school where it was reassembled and repaired by volunteers from the Leatherhead and District Countryside Protection Society and the Local History Society. The 150-200 year old barn rests on 9 staddle stones and is similar to the one at Maddox Farm.

On the opposite side of Manor House Lane was Manor Farm, an active dairy farm until around the 1950s. Among the farm buildings, which remain, there is a very long 15th century tithe barn.



The postcard is a Frith's and is dated c1900s.

The left hand picture is of the Farm Yard at Manor Farm taken in 1930. The other is Country dancing at Little Bookham in the 1920s. Miss Bliss, who lived at Bayfield, organised this country dance session on the lawn in front of the tithe barn at Manor Farm.



The Bookhams

All Saints Church - Manor House Lane,

The heart of Little Bookham was the enclave of the Manor House, the Manor Farm, the Tithe Barn, the Old Rectory, several cottages and of course the Church.

The original church was a small, simple building comprising the nave from the tower to the chancel. The only surviving features of this are the north and west walls. In or about 1160 the chancel and a south aisle were added. In the 13th century the south wall of the nave was replaced by arcading, and the side aisle rebuilt. However, by the latter half of the 15th century the south aisle had been removed, and the arcading filled with material from the south wall. A scratch dial (below left) that would originally have been on the south wall of the church can now be seen in the top left-hand reveal of the second window from the east end of the nave. The remains of the arcading can still be seen both inside and outside the church.

It is estimated that the population of Little Bookham in 1086 was between 40 and 50 persons, and the Manor being entirely agricultural, it is unlikely that the population would have increased to any extent; in fact, it probably declined, which may account for the removal of the extra space provided by the south aisle. For comparison, the last census in 1991, the population of the parish was 435.



A Frith series postcard of the church in 1902 and pictures on the right of the interior. The black & white picture was taken in 1906. The round pillars and square capitals which supported the arches of the early arcade can be seen best in the south wall on the right. The arch in the north wall of the chancel (behind the pulpit) leads to the organ chamber which was added in 1901. The pulpit is decorated with seventeenth century curved panels. The coloured picture is recent.



The Bookhams

All Saints Church - Manor House Lane

As they did in many other parts of the country, the Victorians made alterations to the church. The east window of the chancel is a modern insertion of 13th century design; the organ chamber incorporating 503 pipes and the porch were added in 1901, and a two-roomed vestry was added at the same time. This unfortunately was not under-pinned and in the late 1990s began to fall away from the church. In 2001/2 a new vestry was built, and was dedicated by the Bishop of Dorking in January 2003.

The church contains probably the finest collection of *hatchments (picture below) in Surrey, displaying the armorial bearings of the past Lords of the Manor. A hatchment was hung outside the residence of the Lord of the Manor on death, carried in the funeral procession and subsequently hung in the church. The five hatchments on the west wall relate to the Pollen family and are described on the west wall within the church.

A local J.F. Stevens postcard postally used dated 1922.



*A **hatchment** is a funeral demonstration of the lifetime "achievement" of the arms (shield, helmet, crest, supporters) and any other honours displayed on a black lozenge-shaped frame which used to be suspended against the wall of a deceased person's house. It was usually placed over the entrance at the level of the second floor, and remained for from six to twelve months, after which it was removed to the parish church. The practice developed in the early 17th century from the custom of carrying an heraldic shield before the coffin of the deceased, then leaving it for display in the church. In medieval times, helmets and shields were sometimes deposited in churches.

The Bookhams

All Saints Church - Manor House Lane

There are two windows that appear to be original – the west window and the western-most window in the north wall. These are early 12th century with deeply splayed round-headed reveals and sloping cills.



At the south east of the chancel is an unusual piscina with two drains, probably of 13th century, over which is a 15th century cinquefoiled head. The font (pictured left) is believed to be of Anglo-Saxon origin. The circular lead-lined stone tub has been reinforced in more recent times with wrought iron work.

A two storey extension was added in 2002 comprising the rector's vestry and the Bowdler Room.

Close to the entrance to the church stands a yew tree believed to be the oldest tree in the area. There is a certificate inside the church signed in 1988 by the Archbishop of Canterbury and others on behalf of the Conservation Foundation (Yew Tree Campaign) stating that the tree is 1300 years old. This would date it to the time when the parish was probably first formed. To celebrate the Millennium a new yew tree was planted by the MP for Mole Valley, Sir Paul Beresford, close to the northern boundary of the churchyard, which it is hoped will still be growing there in the year 3000.



OLD TREE AND SEAT. LITTLE BOOKHAM CHURCH

Two of the same R.A.P Co Ltd postcards of the Yew Tree, one being in colour.



OLD TREE AND SEAT. LITTLE BOOKHAM CHURCH - Surrey

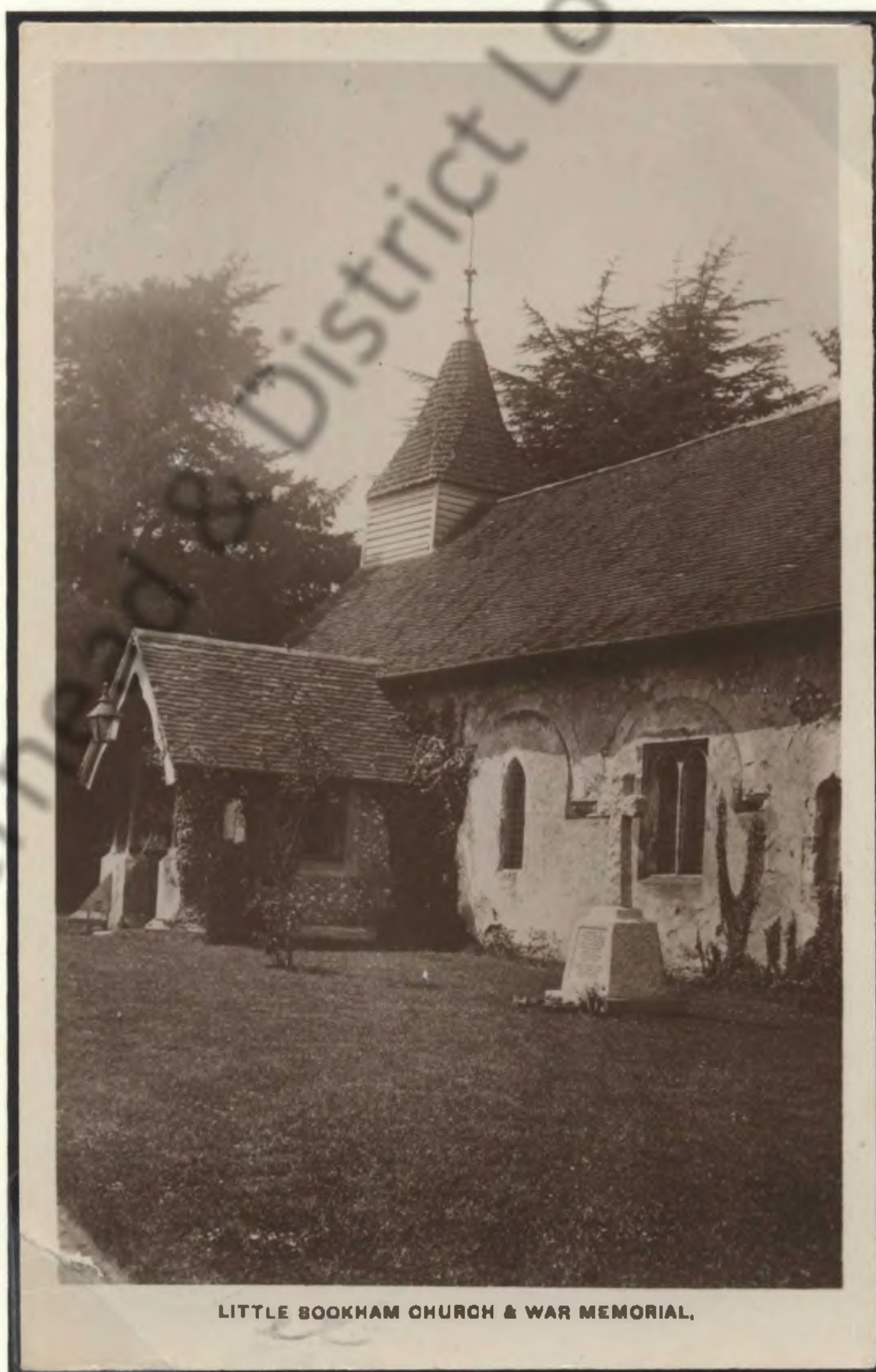
The Bookhams

All Saints Church - Manor House Lane

There are four names on the WWI memorial at Little Bookham's Parish Church.

There is also one war grave in the churchyard - CAPTAIN THOMAS HERBERT HELME (picture right) of the London Regiment (Queen's Westminster Rifles) He was killed in action at the age of 35 on the 3rd November 1918.

A postally used postcard dated June 1921



All Saints Church - Manor House Lane

There is also a memorial to:

WILLOCK, GUY CHARLES BOILEAU

Initials: G C B

Nationality: United Kingdom

Rank: Captain

Regiment/Service: London Regiment (London Irish Rifles)

Unit Text: 18th Bn.

Age: 23

Date of Death: 25/09/1915

Additional information: Son of Charles Johnston Willock and the late Eleanor Maud Willock.

Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead

Grave/Memorial Reference: IX. D. 11.

Cemetery: DUD CORNER CEMETERY, LOOS

The Willock-Pollen family have long connections with the parish of Little Bookham.

Guy Willock's name is not on the 1914-1918 war memorial at All Saints.

Research is underway for the war dead in WWII



The Bookhams

All Saints Church - Manor House Lane

Outside the east end of the church stands the Cooté Manningham Tomb - a chest tomb, inscribed "In this vault are deposited the remains of Major General Cooté Manningham, Equerry to the King and Colonel of the 95th or Rifle Regiment of Foot. He died at Maidstone on the 26th day of August 1809 in the 44th year of his age, an early victim to the fatigues of the campaign in Spain." The tomb was restored in 1933 when the superstructure was removed and taken to the Royal Green Jackets Regimental Museum in Winchester, where it now remains. The Major General's wife was the fourth daughter of the Revd George Pollen who was rector and Lord of the Manor of Little Bookham until his death in 1812.

The postcard is an S & W Series card dated c1900s.



Cooté Manningham (c.1765-1809) was a British army officer who played a significant role in the creation and early development of the 95th Rifles. He was the second son of Charles Manningham of Surrey.

Manningham began his career as a subaltern in the 39th Foot serving under his uncle, Sir Robert Boyd, at the Siege of Gibraltar. On the outbreak of the French Revolutionary Wars in 1793, he was appointed as Major to the light infantry battalion where he fought in the Caribbean. He became Lieutenant-Colonel of the 81st Foot and then adjutant-general in Santo Domingo, under the command of Lieutenant-General Forbes.

In early 1800, Colonel Manningham and Lieutenant-Colonel William Stewart proposed, and were given the assignment, to use what they had learned while leading light infantry to train the Experimental Corps of Riflemen, later to become the 95th Rifles and then the Rifle Brigade. That summer the new corps was trained in exercises developed by Manningham and were quickly deployed to provide covering fire to the amphibious landings at Ferrol. Manningham was killed at the Battle of Corunna in the opening stage of the Peninsular War in which the 95th Rifles were to demonstrate the tactical value of the approach developed by Manningham and Stewart.

An inscription under a monument honouring Manningham in Westminster Abbey conveys the esteem in which he was held by his contemporaries:

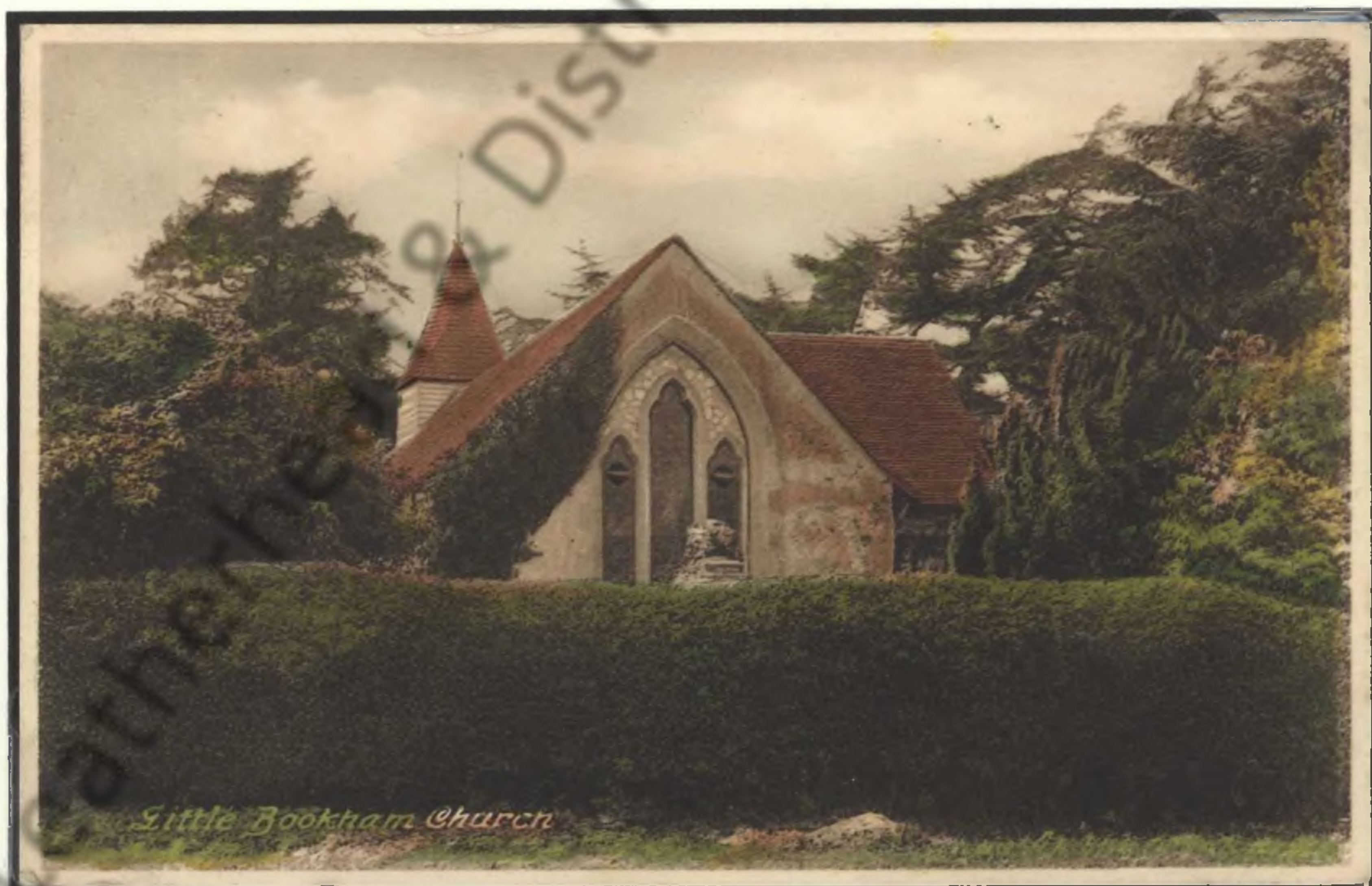
‘The distinguished soldier to whom friendship erects this inadequate memorial, began his career of military action at the siege of Gibraltar, and concluded it at the victory of Corunna, to which his skill and gallantry conspicuously contributed. He fell an early victim to the vicissitudes of climate, and the severities of war, and died 26th August 1809, aged forty-four. Yet, reader, regard not his fate as premature, since his cup of glory was full, and he was not summoned till his virtue and patriotism had achieved even here a brilliant recompense: for his name is engraved on the annals of his country. In him the man and the Christian tempered the warrior, and England might proudly present him to the world as the model of a British soldier.’

The Bookhams

All Saints Church - Manor House Lane

The first postcard has been postally used and is dated 1955.

The second postcard is a Frith's date unknown.



The Bookhams

All Saints Church - Manor House Lane

A local postcard by G.H. Uden which has been postally used in the 1940s.

An unknown postcard of the church and graveyard.

The bottom postcard is from Frith.



Lower Road - Elmhurst/Preston Farm/House

Returning to Lower Road is Elmhurst, a double fronted house that still retains its Edwardian ornate ridge tiles.

Next there are the buildings of Preston Farm, which was run by Mr Roberts from the 1930s until the 1950s when he had 40 head of cattle. Since the farm closed the buildings have been used for a number of industrial activities. On the opposite side of the road there is a small building with a tapered roof at one end giving it the appearance of an oasthouse, which was used for pig food preparation.

Turning right into Rectory Lane, Preston Cross Hotel is on the right. This was a private house known as Preston House and owned by the Lord of the Manor. For about 20 years towards the end of the nineteenth century it was a boys' boarding school described as 'an establishment for preparing gentlemen for the Army!' Even more surprisingly it was run by a clergyman, the Revd Thomas Nixon.

From 1919 until the 1950s it was occupied by the Hansard family. During WWII Mrs Hansard, then a widow lived alone in the house with two schoolboy evacuees. The boys lived in the servant's quarters while Mrs Hansard occupied the main house where she dined alone but always dressed for dinner. On Sundays the boys were taken by Mrs Hansard to Little Bookham Church in the Daimler dressed in their Sunday best. One of them is quoted as saying 'Here we enjoyed the hospitality of a kind elderly lady who, in trying to unite our family, provided us with a rare insight into the formal luxury of a lifestyle now long gone. After church on Sundays we would troop around the house ceremoniously winding the clocks.'

The last private occupant of Preston House was Mr Thompson, an eye specialist, who kept about a hundred pigs in the field to the rear of the premises. The kiln-like building in Lower Road was where the pig food was prepared and Mr Thompson had the kiln built for the purpose. He and the pig farm were there until the late 1960s. The Preston Cross Hotel opened in about 1970.



A Frith postcard dated c1910 of Rectory Lane with Preston House, now the Preston Cross Hotel on the right. Although Preston House was part of the Estate of the Manor of Little Bookham, it was tenanted for long periods. Below are pictures of the front and rear of the Preston Cross Hotel.



The Bookhams

Arthur Bird - The Grange/School of Stitchery

The Grange is in Rectory Lane and was once the home of Arthur Bird - it is now the Grange Training centre and workshop for the disabled.

One hundred years ago in Bookham, as in most villages, two ways of life existed - the life of the gentry in their vast houses and the ordinary working families. This story begins with a partner in a London solicitor's firm moving into 'The Grange' an Elizabethan style cottage in Little Bookham in the year 1897. His name was Arthur Bird and amongst other roles he was a 'Justice of the Peace' in Epsom. Considering 'Great' to reflect his true standing in his profession he manipulated a boundary change to get 'The Grange' included within the parish of Great Bookham. Originally Rectory Lane and the Parish boundary followed the course of the entrance drive and the house was in Little Bookham. However, Arthur Bird arranged for Rectory Lane to take its present route, both to give the house a front garden and so that he could, with justification have a 'Great' Bookham address.



A Frith's postcard of The School of Stitchery c1950s and a picture of Arthur Bird c1907 and The Grange in 1892 used as a Christmas card showing the view from the north east.

The Bookhams

Arthur Bird - The Grange/School of Stitchery

The Grange was described as being all that a gentleman could wish for but it was not so large that it would present a problem at a time when servants were generally becoming more difficult to hire. The accommodation included two large drawing rooms and a large dining room, a morning room and a study, as well as a range of domestic premises with back hall and staircase.



A Tuck's postcard c1940 and a picture of The Grange taken in the early 1900s. Both views are from the south west across the lawn. The picture of Arthur Bird JP, was taken about 1907. By this time Arthur Bird had become one of the largest landowners in Great and Little Bookham. Arthur Bird was born on the 1st December 1844, the eldest son of George Bird of Pinner Hill, he married Jane Mary Shephard (b.1848, d1909.) Her father, Samuel, founded and owned Shephard's Hotel in Cairo. He worked as a partner of Peake, Bird and Collins, of Bedford Row, London and he became a J.P., chairing the Epsom Bench.

In 1897 Arthur and Jane Mary moved to 'The Grange' in Rectory Lane and Arthur was to live there until his death in 1931. He had six children - two girls and four boys - all by his first wife, though he remarried in 1920. Both of his daughters were active in the village and two of his sons joined the army. - Gerald served as a doctor on General Allenby's staff in Palestine. Another son, George Shephard Bird obtained his MA at Trinity College Cambridge and served as Rector of Great Bookham from 1905 until 1925. Arthur Bird is now chiefly remembered for his gift to the parish of the Old Barn Hall which was on his Sole Farm Estate.



The Bookhams

Arthur Bird - The Grange/School of Stitchery

Arthur Bird went on to buy all the land between The Grange and Great Bookham village including the whole of what was then Sole Farm. He could walk from The Grange through to the village completely on his own land, indeed the footpath still exists today going across what is now the recreation ground in Lower Road. The large farmhouse of Sole Farm and the farm-yard were in Church Road opposite the parish church of St Nicolas. Apart from the High Street itself and just a few cottages, the area was divided into fields of corn or grazing for cattle, sheep and horses.



A Tuck's postcard dated c1950/60s. The picture is of the Bird family having a tea party at The Grange in c1895, Mr Bird is on the left with beard and boater, and Mrs Bird is the lady pouring the tea. Presumably, the two young ladies without hats were the daughters. Their son, George Sheppard Bird who became Rector of Great Bookham is either the chap on the lawn, or the young man in the boater sitting. George was also the first Chairman of the BCA (Bookham Community Association) at the request of his father after his donation of the Old Barn Hall to the village. George was in the chair from 1906 until 1925, when he moved to become Vicar of Rowledge 1925-1934. During his time at St Nicolas Church the Rev G S Bird had electric lighting installed and an organ. When the Duke & Duchess of York were on holiday at Polesden Lacey he was invited to tea but, lacking a car, had to be driven there by Mr Madge the butcher. His son, Canon AL Bird, recalled roller skating in the Hall as a boy and attending concerts and charity events.



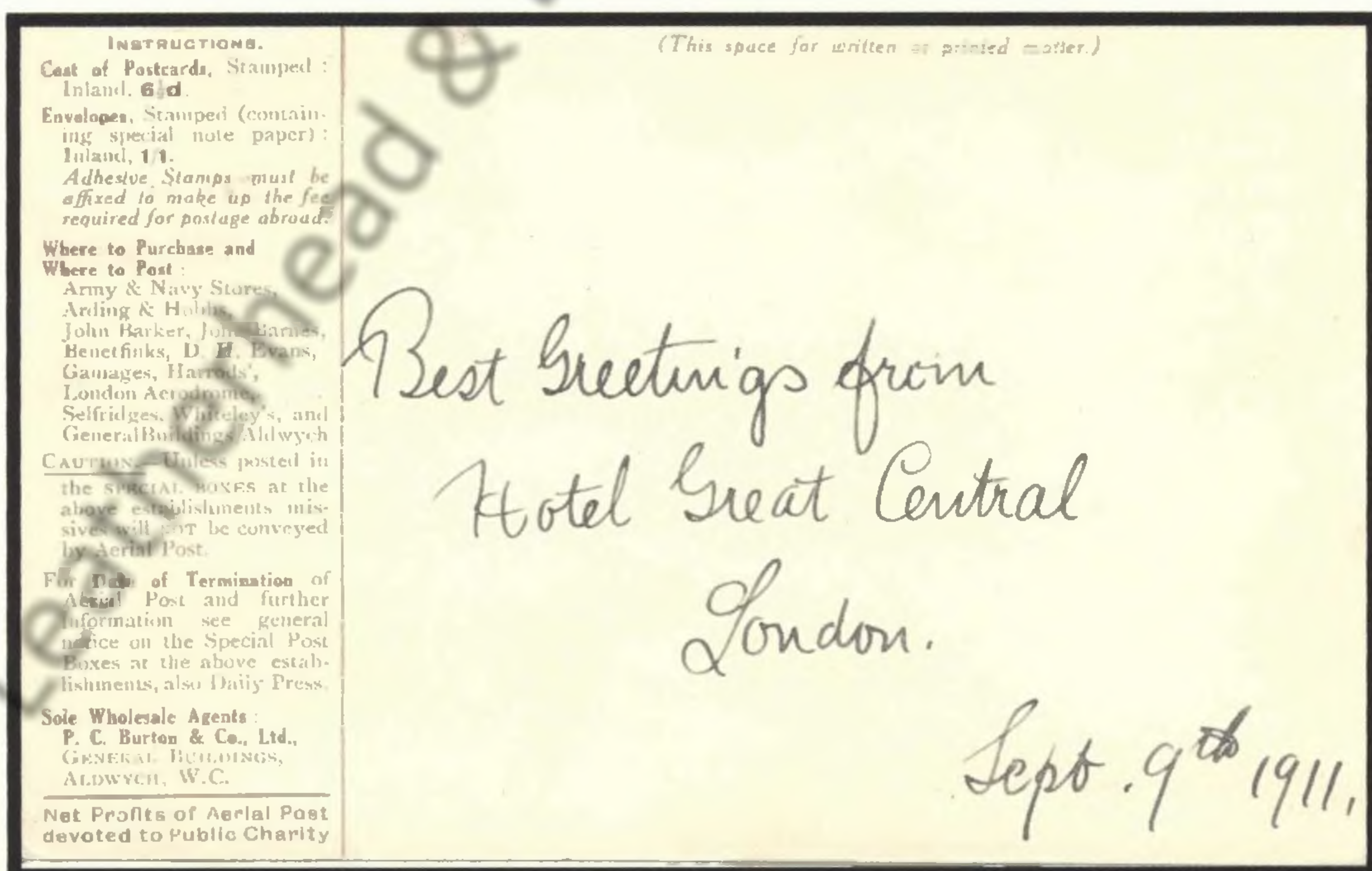
The Bookhams

Arthur Bird - The Grange/School of Stitchery

Sometime after his wife's death he married the family's nurse who, after his death, in 1931, had a house built on the corner of Rectory Lane and Lower Road named Orchard Grange. It was occupied in the 1950s by Mr Cross, an amateur film maker, who had a film studio built alongside the house. Reg Williams, who had served on local farms all of his working life, acted the major role in a film made by Mr Cross that illustrated the rural way of life in Bookham at the time.



The first UK flight which went from London to Windsor in 1911 commemorated by this special postcard. It was sent to Arthur Bird from Hotel Great Central in London postmark dated September 11th 1911. The sender is unknown as there is no name. It could have been sent by Mr Bird himself of course!



The Bookhams

Arthur Bird - The Grange/School of Stitchery

A letter dated 19th October 1990 to The Editor from The Rev. Canon Arthur Leyland Bird (son of George Shephard Bird who was rector at Great Bookham 1905 - 1925 and grandson of Arthur Bird.)

Dear Editor,

I haven't forgotten you but I am trying to write a history of the Bird family in Great Bookham 1897 when my grandfather Arthur Bird bought the Grange to 1926 when my father left the parish for Rowledge, but it will be some time before it is finished when I will send you a copy, but you may get a part instalment before too long. The enclosed postcard may interest you. But if you have not seen it I could send you a copy of "The adventures of an advowson" by Canon Alen Hughes, which is based on documents I have at home the advowson of Great Bookham came into the hands of the Bishop of Guildford from 1657 to the present day. But I must have it back.

Yours sincerely,

19.10.90

THE REV. CANON A. L. BIRD
3 QUEENS CLOSE
WALTON-ON-THE-HILL
TADWORTH KT20 7SU
SURREY
0737 813733

Dear Editor

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Bishop of Guildford from 1657 to the present day But I must have it back.

Yours sincerely

Arthur Bird

Arthur Bird - The Grange/School of Stitchery

The Rev A L Bird went to Australia and an article followed on December 1, 1931 in the copy of 'The Bush Brother': "The Rev. Arthur Leyland Bird – now to be known as Brother Ley – has at last arrived in Australia, and is at work in the Brewarrina District. We are indeed happy to have him with us, and look forward to his ministry in the bush." In the same issue, Brother Ley contributed on pages 214-216 an article which I summarised: "I sailed from Liverpool on board the s.s. *Balranald* on October 3rd, the fifth anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood. I had been appointed Voyage Chaplain there were two archdeacons and another priest on board to act as my curates!" He then described his future chaplain duties on board, and documented the Bay of Biscay, Gibraltar, Valetta Malta, Port Said, Suez Canal, and the Red Sea.... "I was elected sports committee secretary...and helped to run deck games tournaments""I was about the only person who had not entered the Southern Hemisphere before".... He goes on to describing his ducking ceremony involvement in which he gave as good as he got...." I was met (in Sydney by) the secretary and treasurer of the B.G.S. Women's Committee ... and one of the probationer brothers, who took me of to St. James' Rectory where I was the guest of Dr. Micklem for the weekend."

"I left the next day by train for Bathurst, where I stayed at Bishops court for two days. Here I was licensed and 'sworn in.' From Bathurst the Bishop took me to Dubbo to meet Brother Tom for the first time, and on to Bourke for the weekend"... and he was to go on to Brewarrina, but the rain decided otherwise, and he stayed for a week in Gilgandra. He had an experience of being stuck in black soil with Bishop Wylde. "However, his gallant pushing soon got us out, but not before he had measured his length in the mud! I am looking forward to a happy ministry in the West, especially at Brewarrina – when the rain allows me to get out there. A.L.B."

The next information was found in *The Bush Brother* March 25, 1937 written by an unsigned person under the heading DEPARTURES. The Reverend A.L. Bird (Brother Ley). "Five years ago, last November, arrived from England one who quickly became a keen 'Bushman.' He had served an assistant curacy in a crowded Yorkshire parish on the outskirts of Middlesborough. The transition from an industrial parish to the widespread district of Brewarrina was no slight change, but brother Ley quickly adapted himself to the vastly altered circumstances. His fondness for the motor car as a means of travel stood him in good stead. For almost two years he was the assistant to the brother in charge (The Rev. L.C.S. Walker) of the Brewarrina district."

" During that time he had primarily the pastoral oversight of the northern district, which included Angledool, Goodooga, Cumborah, and Lightning Ridge. He discovered people off the beaten track, and seldom, if ever was really bushed. Never did he travel without his camera, and his snapshots so often appeared in the 'Bush Brother' that he was almost regarded as the official B.G.S. photographer."

"He threw himself into headquarter's work; he became Chapter Clerk and Assistant Editor of the 'Bush Brother', making himself responsible for the collecting and acknowledging suscriptions. He carried through successfully the extensive restoration of Christ Church, Brewarrina, and was able last year, to see the central church of his district made more fitting for worship, and re-opened free of debt. He has sailed for England with an Australian bride, well known in the Brewarrina district for her devoted work for the West."

The wedding of the Rev. A.L. Bird and Miss Dulcie M.G. Tarbolton is recorded in 1½ pages of the same issue of 'The Bush Brother' at St. James', King Street, Sydney. Bishop Wylde celebrated the marriage on February 6, 1937. The bride and groom had a brief stay in Canberra prior to sailing for England on February 13, 1937. The last word heard of the couple was from Fremantle, Western Australia on the way to England. Their address in England will be: c/o the Rev. G.S. Bird, Farnham, Surrey, England. A picture of The Rev. A.L. Bird B.G.S. 1931-1936 taken from the supplement of the same 'The Bush Brother.'



THE REV. A. L. BIRD
B.G.S., 1931-1936.

The Bookhams

Arthur Bird - The Grange/School of Stitchery

A repro Frith's postcard dated 1965. The pictures are of the marriage of Arthur Bird's eldest daughter Mabel in 1909 at St Nicolas Church.

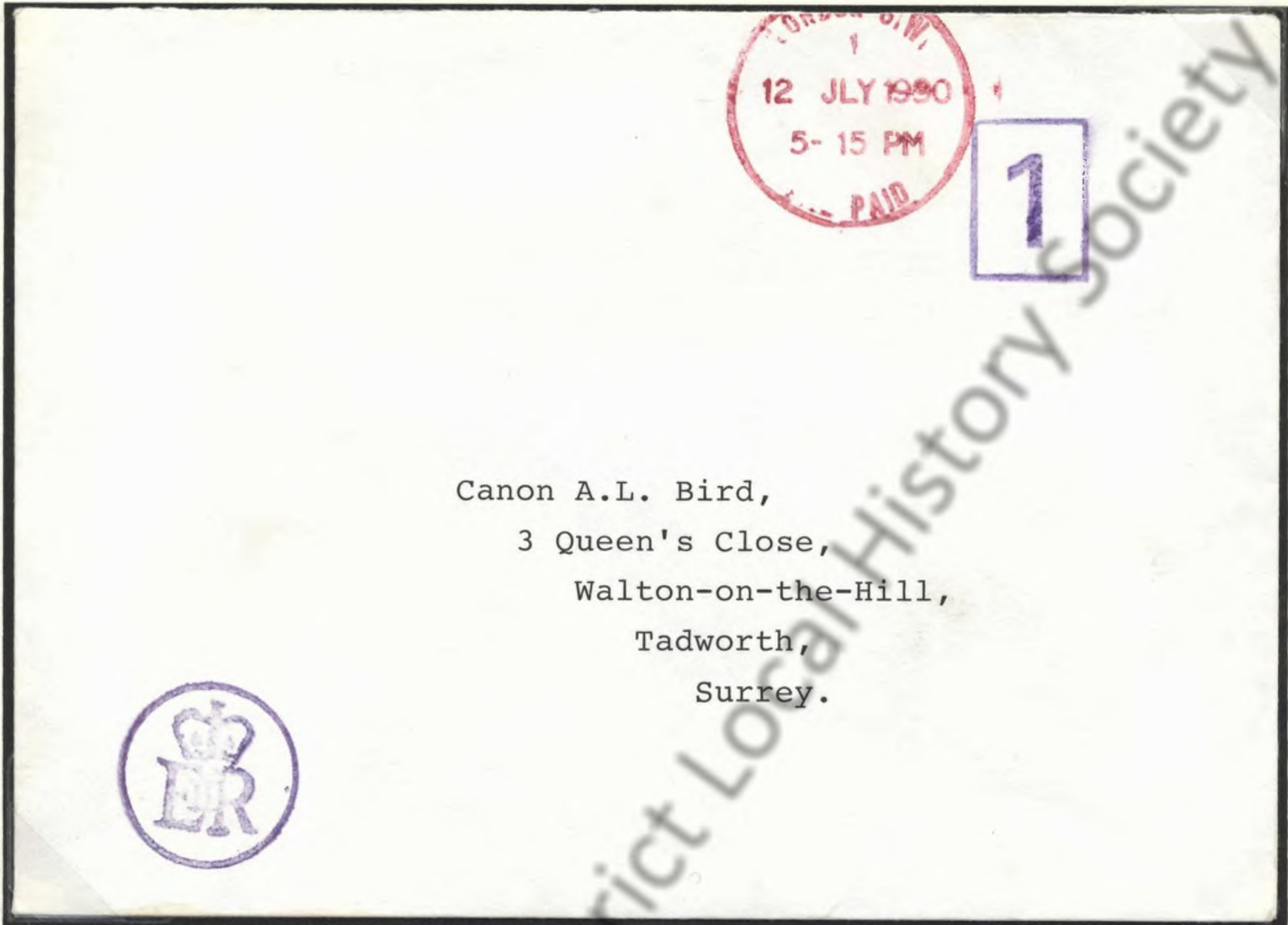
Arthur's other daughter Hilda was not only active in the village but also founder member of the Leatherhead Operatic Society. Later she married an officer in the Indian army and there was some discussion as to whether the office of Trustee could be held by a woman!



The Bookhams

Arthur Bird - The Grange/School of Stitchery

Below is an envelope from Canon A.L. Bird's grand-daughter who worked in the Prince of Wales Office - Royal Motto embossed on envelope flap.



The Royal Motto and a picture of the Grange Stables in 1908 - Mr Bishop was the coachman.

